

LOCAL HISTORY RECORDER'S REPORT  
EARL SOHAM 1974 (Pop 310)

THE LODGE sold in 1973 after the death of Major S.D. Mann for C. £150,000 to Capt. M. Peckersgill was opened during the year as Earl Soham Lodge Equestrian Centre.

NORFOLK HOUSE formerly Sanly and Norfolk Cottages and part of the Lodge estate also sold in 1973 C. £20,000 was converted, re-thatched and plastered and finally occupied by Mr. Wheal (as week-end residence) Christmas 1974: an attractive addition to the environment.

RECTORY Probably to be sold and a new rectory to be built E of the church with entrance in Church Lane.

CHURCH Bell fund slowly increased to £1600 at year end. Bells shortly due for removal, require to be re-hung in strengthened tower - anticipated cost £6000.

BAPTIST CHURCH The pastor Rev. J.H. Holloway was in December invited to accept the living at Prickwillow, Ely; son <sup>James</sup> Jones to continue social work at their home, Greens Farm, Monmouth. The Koinonia Club, in the converted ground floor of the Church, continues as a popular meeting place for the young, and as headquarters of the 'All Things New' music group.

EARL SOHAM CHORAL SOCIETY The annual concert in the Church in May attracted the usual full house.

FALCAN INN The retirement of Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Larter in July was followed by a face lift, and re-arrangement of the bars.

HORSE SHOW & FETE This event predominantly for under-18 age group attracted an increased number of entries in fancy dress and driving classes. A goat show included for the first time proved so popular that judging continued well after normal closing time. A fine day undoubtedly contributed to the record profit in aid of Church funds of over £500.

W.R.V.S. Meals on Wheels service operated from the School Canteen at the Village hall or (in holiday time) from the cottage where Mrs. Whitham undertakes the cooking.

W.I.SHOW In April devoted to home produce and handiwork was well supported by exhibitors and public.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION The village is the centre for a group of 7 villages with a membership of 35-40, decreasing as age takes its toll.

OVER -60 CLUB An active group of about 50 members.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION After a lapse of some years during which a sewage system had been constructed in the village, the competition was again entered. A sub-committee including 2 Members of the Parish Council was well supported by organisations and residents (including a young American couple) in a major tidying-up campaign which took the village into sixth place in the County. A major improvement as the result of private endeavour was the elimination of the flow of sewage from pig farm through the ditch in the street. Why couldn't the Parish Council have done this years ago?

The brewers repainted the Victoria Inn and provided a new sign incorporating a very fine portrait of her late majesty at the time of her Jubilee in full regalia in which the Tolly Cobbold house colours appear

to predominate, an arrangement infinitely to be preferred to the repainting in these colours of the houses themselves as for instance at Earl Stonham (on A140)

For the record: -

ASHFIELD (Nr. Deben Lane) The Elizabethian farm house, Felgate Farm, Grove Lane, changed hands in 1973 and at the end of that year had been razed to the ground after the plaster had been stripped off, and the timbers beneath declared unsafe. Last to go was the massive double chimney. The house was rebuilt in 1974 after the style of Bedfield Hallie: two wings joined by a 'hall', the new building not being unattractive, though the basic construction is breeze block on a concrete raft: A final finishing coat (of colouring matter?) has yet to be applied.

Also at the upper end of Grove Lane 5 calf breeding units and caretaker's (or supervisors) bungalow has been built.

MONK SOHAM A pair of cottages on the Kenton Road near Woodcroft Hall has been attractively converted to a single dwelling in a modern style, the original and distinctive tapered chimney stacks forming the end walls being retained.